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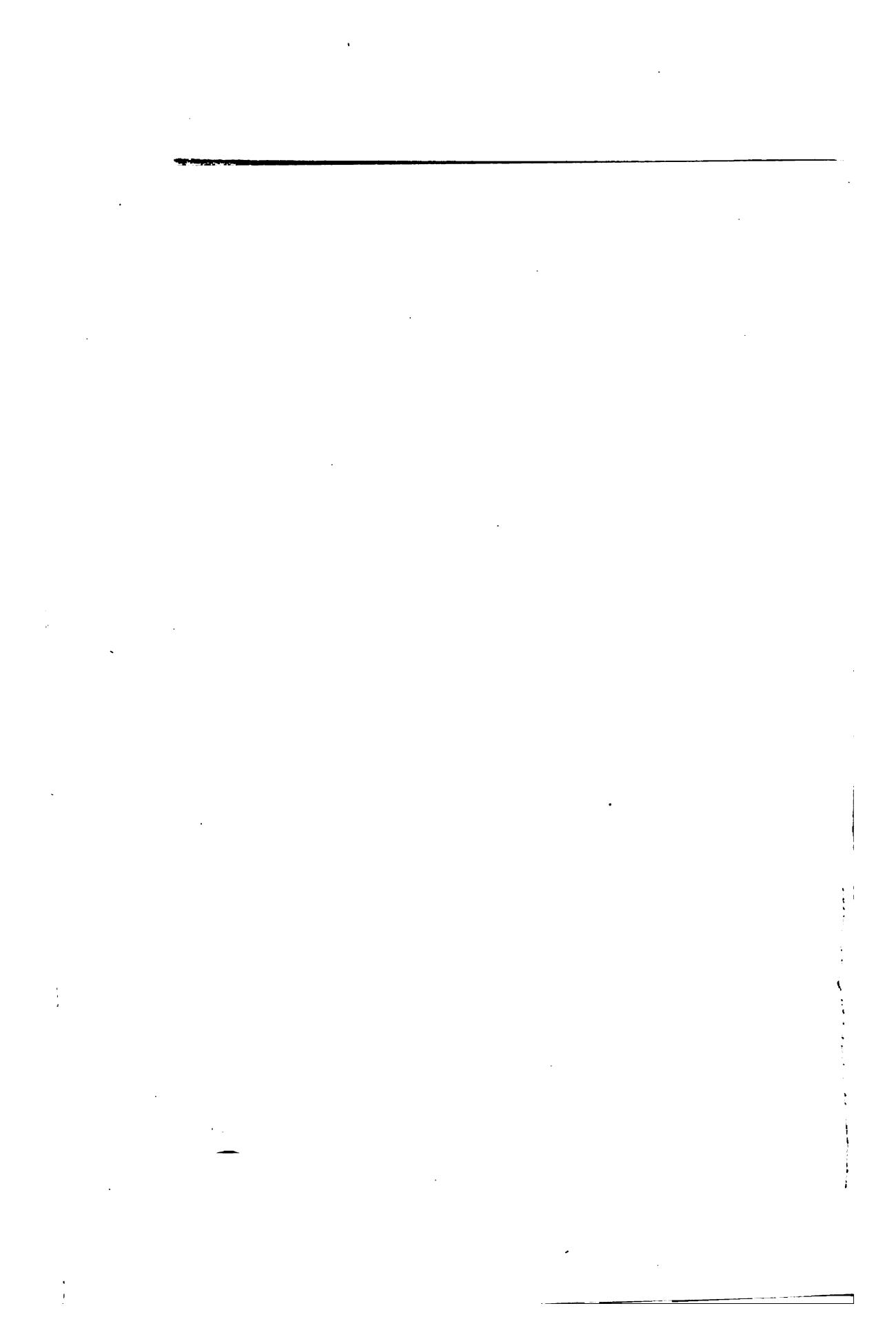
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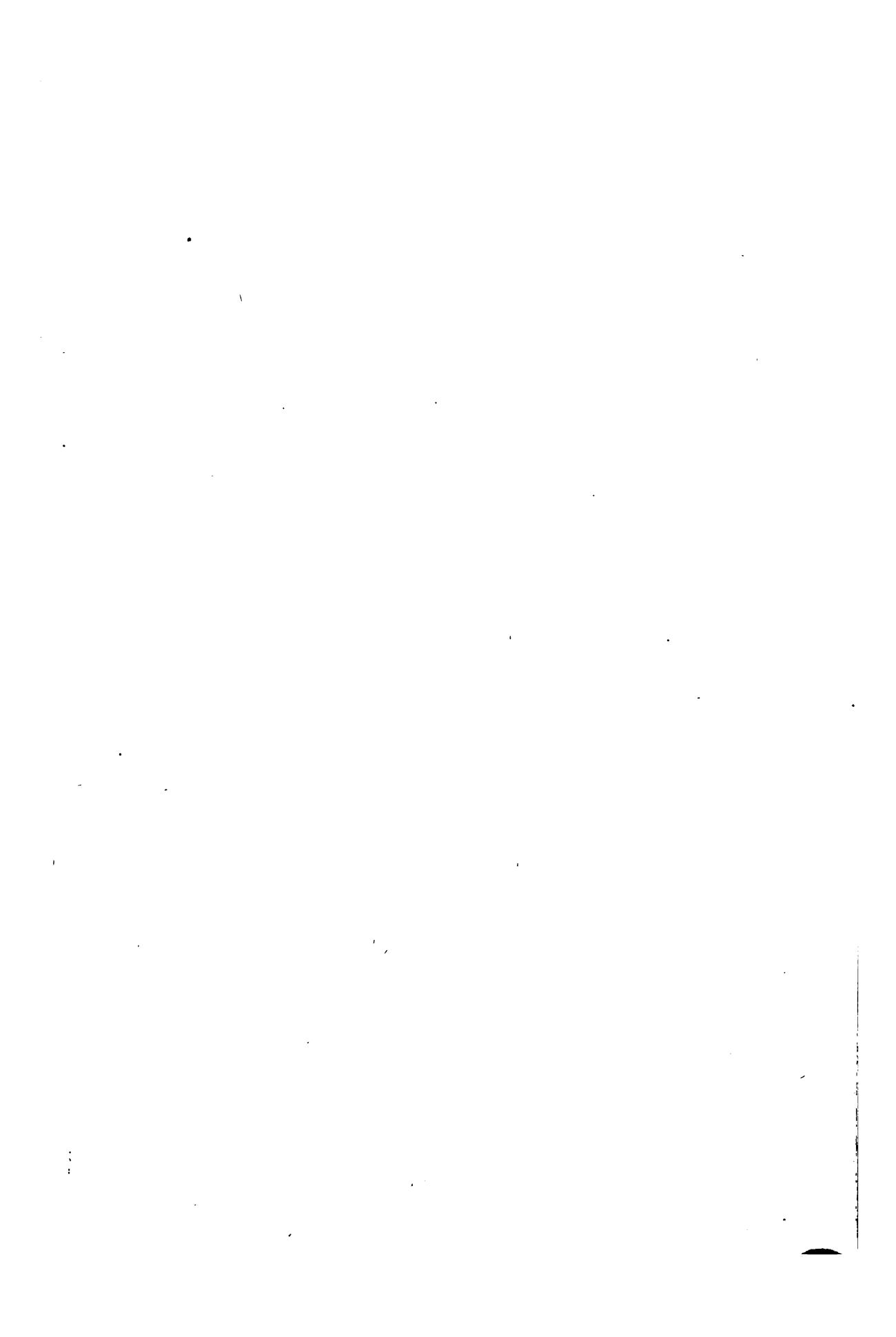
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THE
HISTORIE
of the
KING'S MANNOVR
HOVSE
at
YORK
by
R. DAVIES, F.S.A.
illustrated with
Etchings
by
A. Buckle, B.A.
1883.

DONATELLO KING'S MANOR YORK

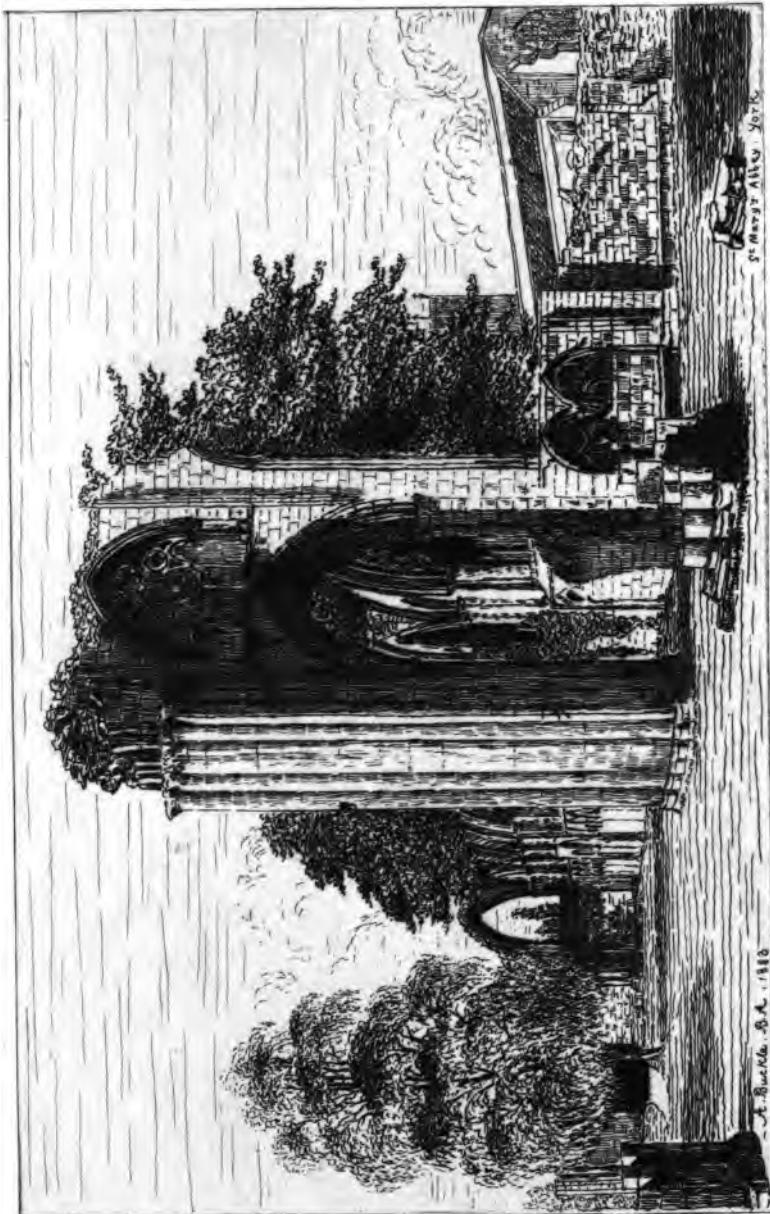
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HISTORICAL NOTICES
OF THE EDIFICE CALLED
THE KING'S MANOR,
SITUATE NEAR the WALLS of the CITY of YORK.
BY ROBERT DAVIES, F.S.A.

(Extracted by permission from the XXIXth Report of the Yorkshire Architectural Society.)

THE vast irregular pile of building distinguished by the name of The King's Manor, which is now occupied partly by the Wilberforce School for the indigent blind,* and partly by the National School for boys, stands within the enceinte of the dissolved Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary, near the walls of the city of York. A considerable portion of the edifice occupies the site of the abbatial house of that once celebrated and wealthy monastery—the house in which the princely lord abbot held his state, and dispensed his hospitalities to the many royal and noble personages who at various times were lodged beneath his roof.

The residence of the Abbot of St. Mary's, as was usually the case in the larger monasteries, was placed on the south side of the church, in close proximity to the chapter-house, and those parts of the monastic establishment where the abbot's presence was most frequently required. It is supposed that the mansion was enlarged or rebuilt by William Sever, or Seyyer, who was Lord Abbot from 1485 to 1502. During the greater part of that time he held the Abbey of St. Mary *in commendam* with the Bishopric of Carlisle, and only resigned the former when he was translated from the latter to the see of Durham.

In the year 1538 the Abbey of St. Mary shared the fate of all the religious houses in the kingdom, and was suppressed; and

* N.B.—The former is charged with a leasehold ground rent of £115 per annum, and receives no grant from Government; the latter receives a large subsidy, and enjoys the freehold exempt from rent.—F. J. M., May, 1889.

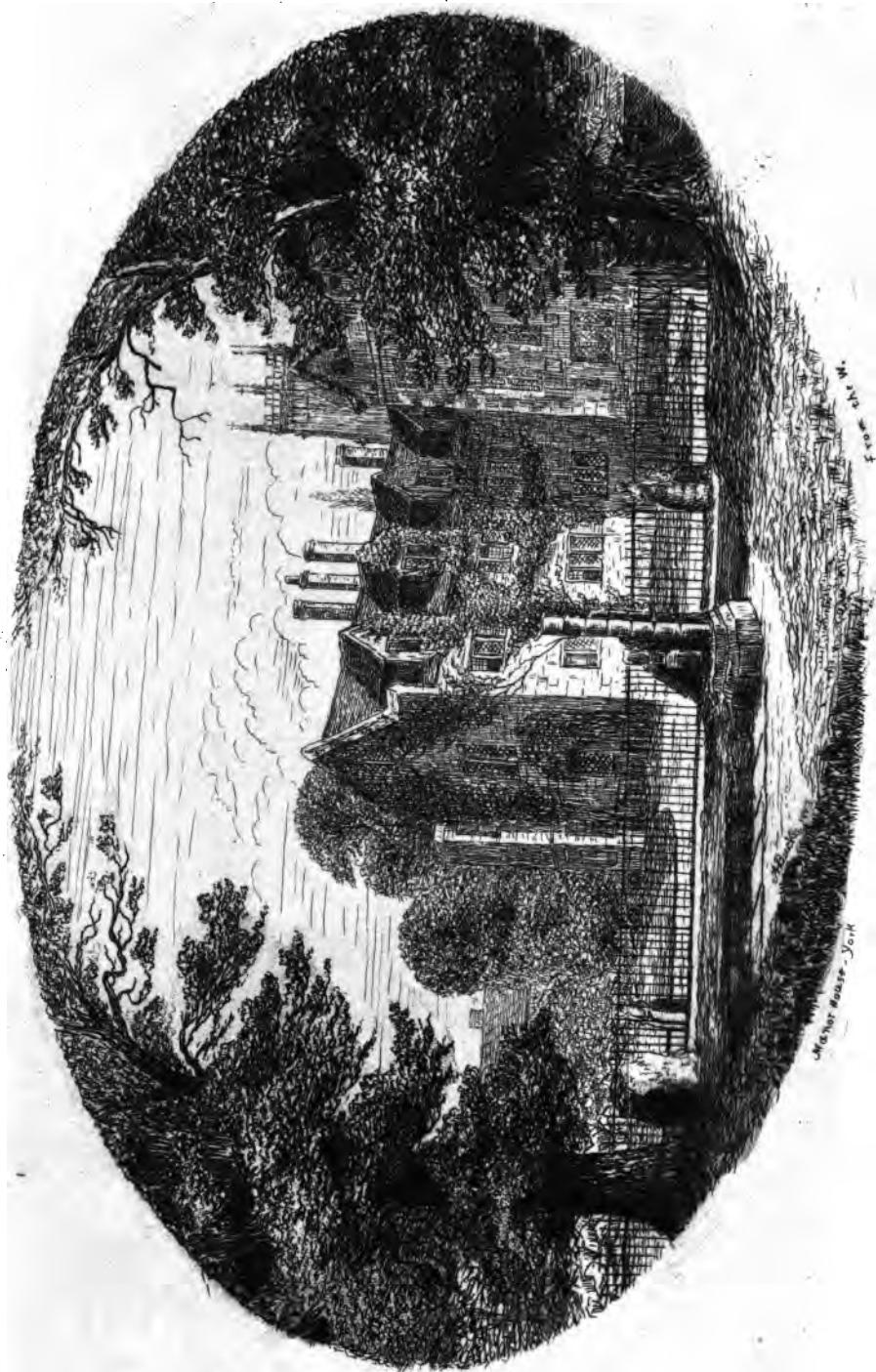
despoiled. The magnificent church, the beautiful chapter-house, the noble refectory, the cloisters, and other monastic buildings and offices, were consigned to destruction. But it was the practice of those to whom the wretched work of spoliation was intrusted, to save from injury the abbot's house, which was, almost invariably, reserved for the use of the fortunate person who should obtain from the crown a grant of the dissolved monastery. Before, however, any of the greedy courtiers of King Henry VIII. had secured Saint Mary's as their share of the sacrilegious plunder, a different appropriation was made of the house of the lord abbot. Within a few months after the actual dissolution of the monastery, the great Council of the North, which in the year 1537 had been permanently constituted by a royal commission, succeeded in obtaining the king's leave to take possession of the abbatial mansion with its appendages, and to occupy it for holding their courts and conducting their official business, as well as for the occasional abode of the Lord President, and the ordinary residence of those members of the council whose duties required them to be constantly in attendance on the spot.

Before the close of the year 1538¹ the President and Council were comfortably settled in that mansion of which the Lord Abbot of Saint Mary's had been so recently dispossessed ; and, in order that its very name and all remembrance of its previous occupants " might be lost for ever," they conferred upon it the royal style and title of The King's Mannour.

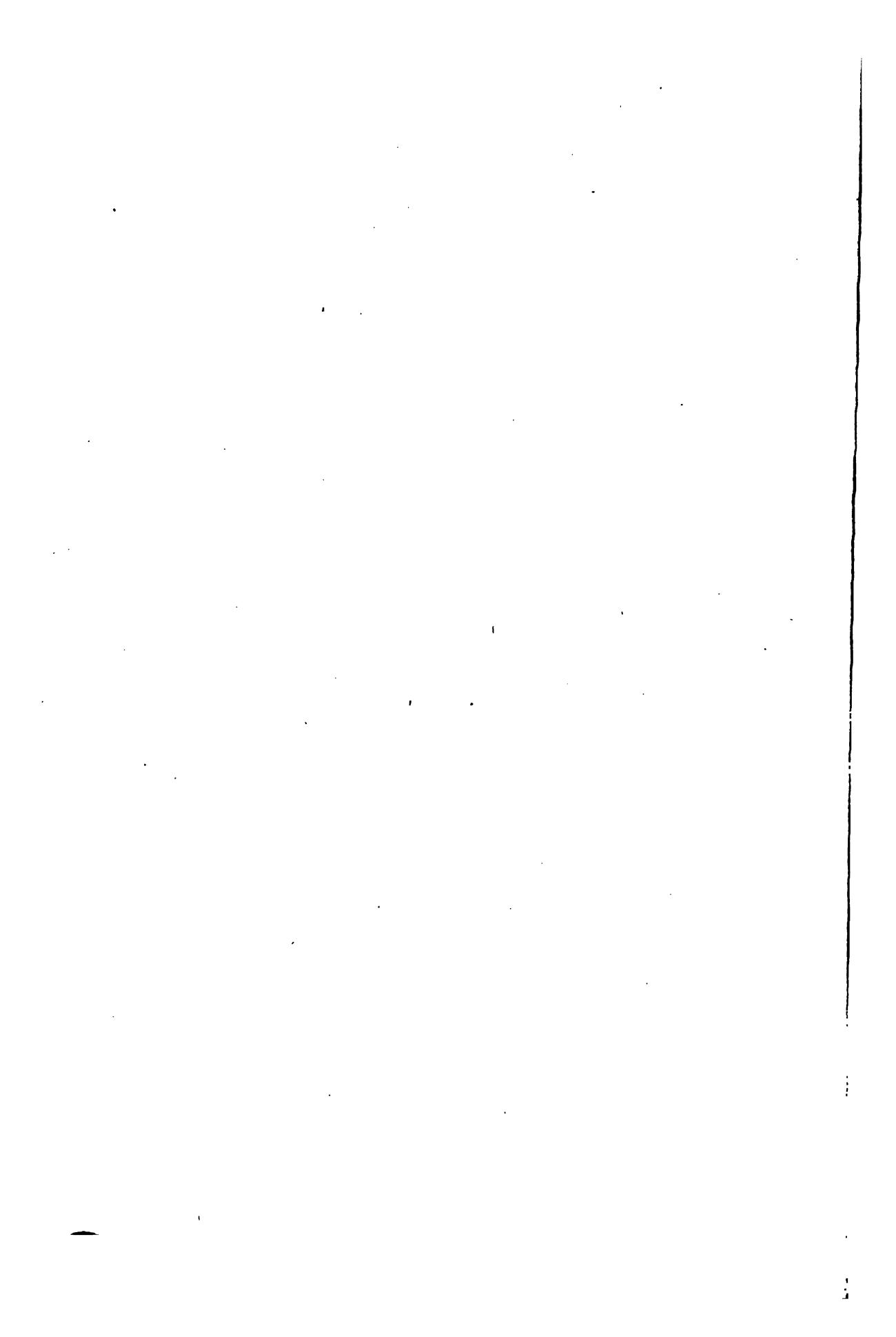
The first Lord President of the North, who, with the executive members of his council, was lodged in the house of the Lord Abbot of St. Mary's, under its new name of The King's Manor, was Robert Holgate, Bishop of Llandaff, afterwards Archbishop of York. He succeeded Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of Durham, in the year 1538, and continued to hold the office of Lord President until the latter part of the year 1549.

For political reasons, King Henry VIII., soon after he had appointed Bishop Holgate to be Lord President, formed the intention of making a progress to the north, and sojourning for a while at York. In contemplation of this visit, the king ordered that a new palace should be built for his reception upon that part of the site of St. Mary's Abbey which lay between the

(1) A letter dated the 17th December, 1538, was addressed to Crumwell by the Lord President and several members of the council, in which they desired him "to give their most humble thanks unto the king's majesty for the appointing unto them the house which of late was called Saint Mary's Abbey without the city of York." See Howard's *Collection of Letters*, 4to. London, 1753, p. 277.



Mr. & Mrs. House - York
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abbot's house and the river. It was not until the month of September, 1541, that the wayward monarch came to York, accompanied by his unfortunate queen, Catherine Howard, and attended by a brilliant suite. The king took up his abode in the newly-erected palace, an edifice that had been hastily raised, and was doomed as suddenly to disappear. Within a few years after Henry's visit to York, the royal palace became as total a ruin as the sacred abbey upon the site of which it stood. All that now remains to attest its original magnitude and splendour is the spacious vault, situate between the south front of the Wilberforce School and the Museum buildings, which is known to this day by the name of the King's Cellar.

When Archbishop Holgate fell into disgrace, Francis Talbot, fifth Earl of Shrewsbury, was made Lord President of the Council of the North, and held that office until his death in the year 1560.

His successor was Henry Manners, second Earl of Rutland, who was appointed by a commission dated the 24th February, 1561. Upon his death, on the 17th September, 1563, the Presidency of the North was placed in the hands of Thomas Young, Archbishop of York, whose tenure of the office terminated at his death, on the 26th June, 1568.

Thirty years had now elapsed since the house of the Lord Abbot of St. Mary's became the official residence of the Lords Presidents and the Council of the North, and there is no reason to suppose that during that period the abbatial buildings had undergone any material alteration.

The accommodation required by the Lord Abbot and his ecclesiastical establishment appears to have been sufficient for their secular successors.

Soon after the death of Archbishop Young, Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, one of the favourite courtiers of Queen Elizabeth, received the appointment of Lord President of the North. He was the first Lord President who caused any alteration or improvement to be made of The King's Manor. Upon his taking possession of the house, he found the buildings incommodious and much dilapidated. He immediately made a representation to the government upon the subject, and obtained a warrant from the Lord Treasurer for the sum of £200 towards the expense to be incurred in the reparation of "the Queen's Majesty's house," and an authority to fell 100 oak trees from the adjacent forest of Galtres, to be used in the work. The repairs were commenced

on the 16th of November, 1568, and were in progress nearly a year and a half. The total amount expended during that period was not much less than £600.² So large an expenditure could scarcely have been incurred in repairs only, and it may be inferred that some important additions were then made to the buildings. In April, 1569, the Lord President applied to the crown for a further grant of money and trees, but with the niggardliness for which the government of Elizabeth was notorious, his request was refused,³ and he was constrained to resort to other means of reimbursing himself the money he had expended upon "the Queen's Majesty's house." Portions of the fines imposed upon offenders by the Council of the North, and of the fines exacted from persons who had been implicated in the rebellion of the two northern earls, were allowed to be appropriated to this purpose, and yet the Lord President and his Vice-President, Sir Thomas Gargrave, were at last nearly £100 out of pocket.

The Earl of Sussex retired from the presidency of the north in the year 1572, and was succeeded by Henry Hastings, third Earl of Huntingdon, who retained that high and important office for the long period of twenty-three years.

It was undoubtedly during the presidency of the Earl of Huntingdon, and most likely in the earlier stage of it, that the large and stately brick buildings, standing on the north-west side of The King's Manor, which have now assumed so venerable and picturesque an aspect, were erected adjacent to the abbatial house, and probably upon some part of its site.

The Earl of Huntingdon, with his countess, who was a sister of the Queen's ruling favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, passed several months of each year at his official residence, the King's Manor. The abbatial house, which had been scarcely large enough for the reception of his predecessors, was now found to be quite inadequate for the accommodation of the Lord President and his family, and the members of the executive council and their officers, whose duties required them to reside there. The transaction of the business of the high commission court, as well as the reception and entertainment of visitors of distinction, called for more spacious and numerous apartments

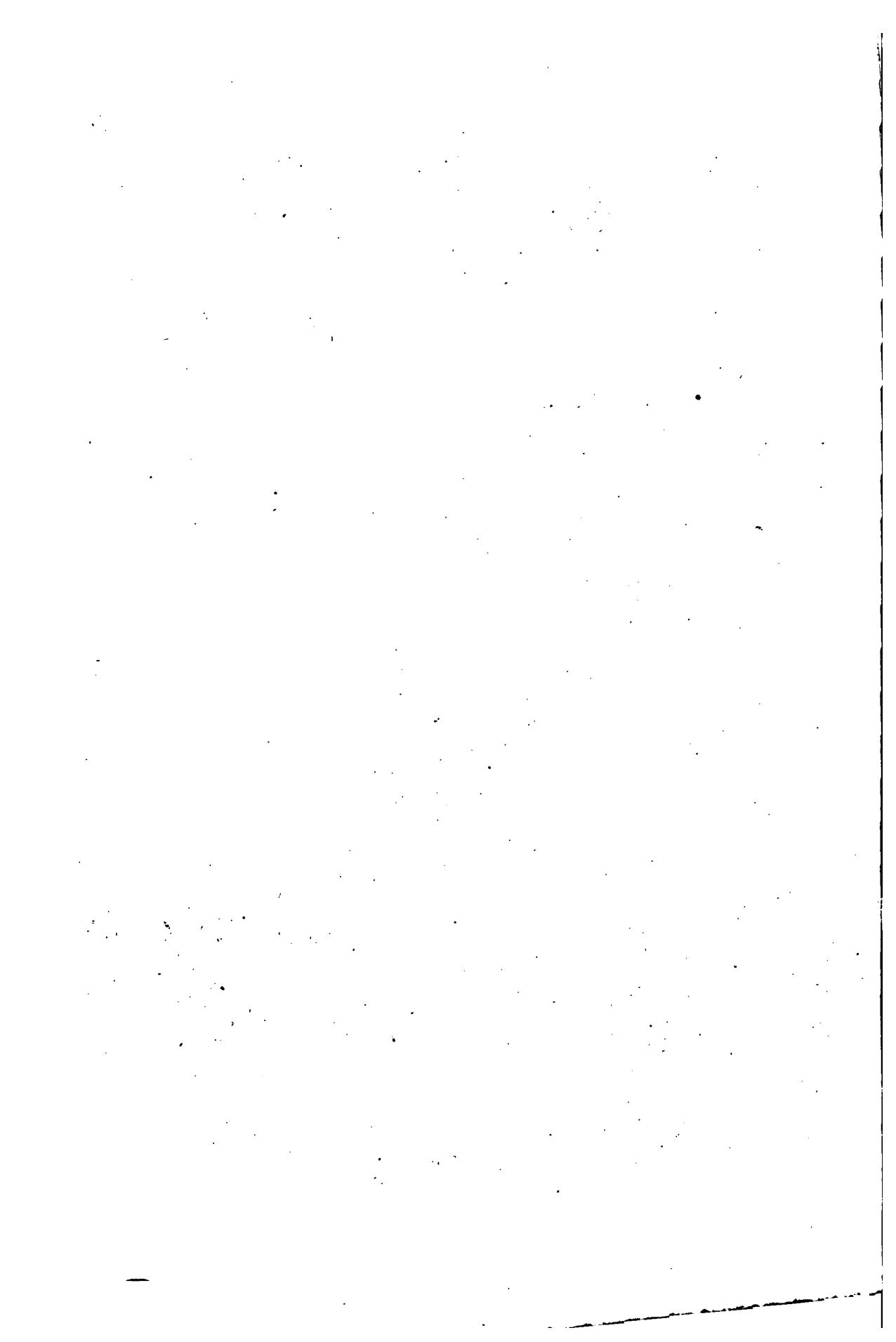
(2) These particulars are obtained from the original account preserved in the State Paper Office. Nearly £50 was expended upon a "little gallery," and as much upon the repairs of the brewhouse.

(3) *Howard's Letters*, p. 218.

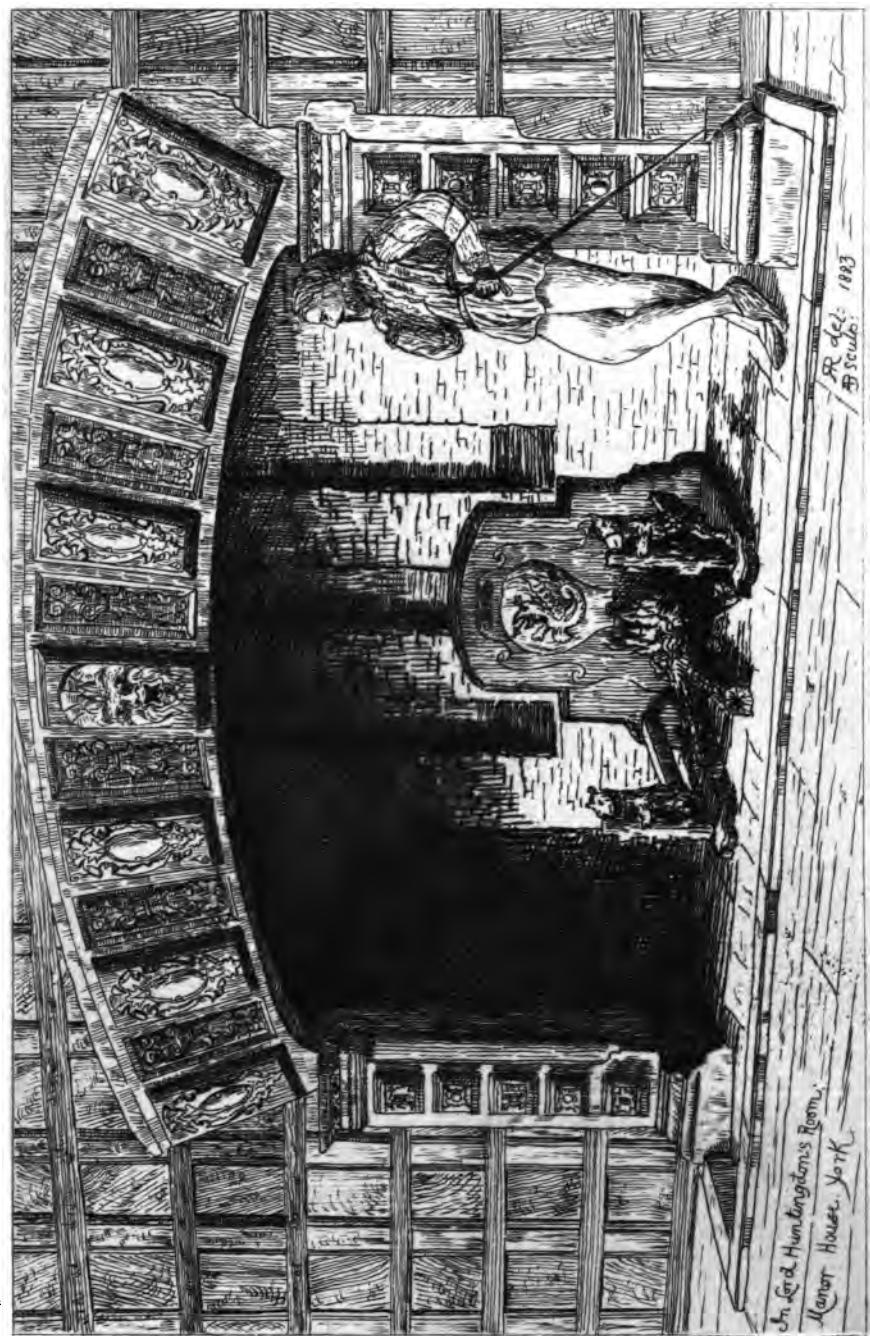


Entrance to
Lord Huntington's Room, Nostell House, York

P. Gandy
R. D. 1883







than were contained in the ancient mansion. The new buildings erected under the auspices of Lord Huntingdon were adapted to meet these requirements, and The King's Manor, during his presidency, became worthy of the name of the King's Palace.

Externally, the architectural features of those parts of The King's Manor that were erected in the Elizabethan era are but little altered. Three centuries have not passed over them without giving a richer and mellower tone to their original colouring; and nature has added to their beauty by the festoons of glossy and verdant ivy that cling around them. The interior has experienced many changes, but happily one apartment exists which still retains much that is Elizabethan, both in form and decoration, and bears unquestionable evidence of the date of its construction, whilst it displays the taste and magnificence of its authors. This noble room, now used as a dormitory for the blind boys, is on the first floor of the northerly block of the buildings; and by the removal of partitions and other modern deformities its proper dimensions are made apparent, and the original ornamentation is displayed to advantage. A flat cornice or frieze of plaster-work presents a repetition of three designs, consisting of—1. An open pomegranate ensigned by wyverns or dragons.⁴ 2. A bull's head erased, armed and gorged,⁵ ensigned by the letters H. H., encircled by a garter inscribed with the motto of the order, and surmounted by an earl's coronet. 3. A bear erect, and collared with a chain proceeding from the collar and reflexed over the back, supporting between the fore paws a ragged staff.⁶ In the middle of the northern wall is a spacious open fire place, having the arch and pilasters richly ornamented with sculpture of Elizabethan design.

As the order of the Garter was not conferred upon the Earl of Huntingdon until June, 1579, it is obvious that this room was not finished until after that year, but it does not follow that the buildings, of which it forms part, were not begun at an earlier period.

The death of the Earl of Huntingdon took place at The King's Manor on the 14th of December, 1595. During the following four years the duties of the presidency were discharged by Matthew Hutton, Archbishop of York. In August, 1599, the

(4) A royal badge of the Tudors.

(5) The crest of the family of Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon.

(6) A badge of the ancient Earls of Warwick assumed by the Dudleys.

archbishop was superseded in the office by a commission appointing Thomas Cecil, Lord Burleigh, to be president.

In March, 1603, Queen Elizabeth departed this life. At that time Lord Burleigh had recently come to his official residence at York, and he assisted in proclaiming James of Scotland King of England. He was there a few weeks later, and received the new monarch at that which had now become his own house, The King's Manor. Lord Burleigh remained at York to welcome the Queen-Consort, on her visit to the city in the month of June, but very soon afterwards he ceased to be Lord President of the North, and was succeeded in that office by Edward, Lord Sheffield, afterwards Earl of Mulgrave.

The presidency of Lord Sheffield lasted about sixteen years, and during that period important additions were made to the buildings of The King's Manor.

Mr. Drake states⁷ that "King James I., at his first coming to York, gave orders to have the Manor repaired, and converted into a regal palace, intending to make use of it as such at his going to and returning from Scotland." It is highly probable that since the death of the Earl of Huntingdon the buildings had been much neglected. Whilst Archbishop Hutton acted as Lord President he would have no occasion to reside at the Manor, and it is certain that Lord Burleigh was there but a very few months of each year of his presidency. The condition of The King's Manor, and the extent of its accommodations might possibly disappoint the expectations of James and his numerous Scottish courtiers. But if a royal order were given for its enlargement, a considerable time elapsed before any steps were taken to carry it into execution.

In September, 1609, Lord Sheffield applied to the Treasury for a grant of five hundred marks per annum for the repairs of The King's Manor and Sheriff Hutton Castle. The result of the application was the issuing of an order by the Lord Treasurer and the Chancellor of the Exchequer for an estimate to be made of the expense of such repairs as should be needful to restore The King's Manor to the same condition as when the Earl of Huntingdon was Lord President. The estimate was made in the month of December, 1609.⁸ It is doubtful whether the work

(7) *Eboracum*, p. 574.

(8) The estimate, a copy of which is appended to this Paper, affords much curious and valuable information. It is the only documentary evidence we possess of the extent of the buildings which constituted The King's Manor as they were left by the Earl of Huntingdon.





In the Manor House, York
A. Buckle 1883

of reparation was then commenced, as the estimate did not receive the approbation of the Treasury until the month of June, 1611, and it was not until the month of July, 1616, that Lord Sheffield obtained a grant of £1000 towards the expenses he had then incurred. In August, 1624, several years after the termination of his presidency, Lord Sheffield rendered to the Treasury an account of his receipts and disbursements respecting the Manor-house at York, and it appears that his total expenditure amounted to the sum of £3301 4s. As this sum greatly exceeds the cost of needful reparations, according to the estimate made in 1609, we cannot doubt that the greater part of it was expended in the erection of the large block of building which now forms the northerly side of the principle quadrangle. The general architectural character of this part of the Manor might safely be pronounced to be Jacobæan, even if the design and ornamentation of the two external doorways, in which the royal initials I.R. are conspicuous, did not show clearly in what king's reign it was constructed. The heraldic achievement which now surmounts one of these doorways displays the armorial bearings of King Charles I. Doubtless, those of his father originally occupied the same space.

In the early part of the year 1619, Emanuel Lord Scrope, afterwards Earl of Sunderland, was made President of the Council of the North, in the place of Lord Sheffield, and he continued to hold that office until nearly the close of the year 1628. During Lord Scrope's presidency The King's Manor does not appear to have undergone any alteration or improvement.⁹

By a royal commission, dated the 15th of December, 1628, Thomas Viscount Wentworth, better known as the great Earl of Strafford, was placed at the head of the Council of the North. For a considerable part of the first four years of his presidency Lord Wentworth and his family were residents at The King's Manor.

In the early part of 1633 he was appointed by King Charles I. Lord Deputy of Ireland, and went to London preparatory to his taking upon himself the duties of that high office, which he had accepted, without relinquishing the presidency of the north.

(9) During two or three of the latter years of Lord Scrope's presidency he had for his private secretary the well-known author of *Epistola Ho-Eliana*. A letter from Howell to a friend, dated York, 18th July, 1627, contains the following passage:—"For this present condition of life, I thank God I live well contented. I have a fee from the King, diet for myself and two servants, livery for a horse, and a part of the King's house for my lodging. I have built me a new study since I came, wherein I shall, among others, meditate upon you, and whence this present letter comes."—Howell's *Familiar Letters*. 8vo., 1754, p. 198.

During his stay in London, previously to his departure for Ireland, the King came to York, and was lodged at the Manor. Writing from London to the Earl of Carlisle, who was in attendance upon the King at York, Lord Wentworth says, "The house you will find much amended since my coming to it, and one thousand pounds more to build a gallery and chapel in that place where you may perceive I intend it, will make it very commodious."¹⁰

The position of the gallery and chapel built during Lord Wentworth's presidency, seems to be clearly indicated by the heraldic achievement, sculptured in stone, which is placed over the doorway on the west side of the quadrangle. The armorial bearings are those which the Lord President was entitled to assume upon being created Viscount Wentworth. The shield presents six quarterings, thus:—1. Wentworth. 2. Argent, a cross potent, gules—Woodhouse. 3. Argent, a cross patté—Hooton. 4. Argent, on a plain sable a luce's head, or—Gascoigne. 5. Gules, a saltire argent—Neville. 6. Argent, 5 lozenges in fess, gules—Newmarch. The supporters are a griffin and a lion; the motto, "En dieu est tout," and the whole is surmounted by a viscount's coronet.

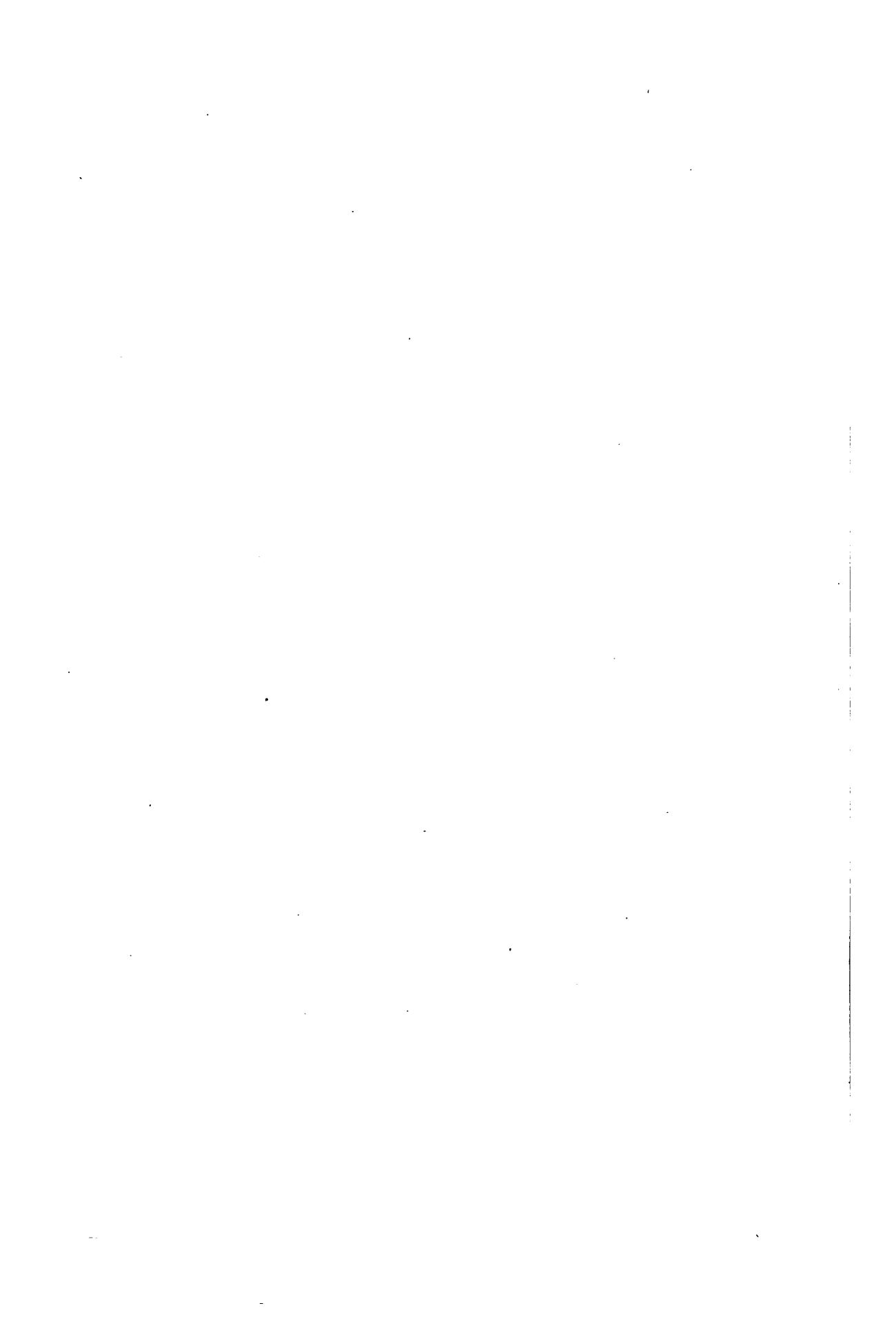
Lord Strafford is charged with unbecoming arrogance in putting up his own arms in one of the king's palaces, and it is popularly but erroneously believed that this was the subject of one of the articles of impeachment against him. No blame was imputed to the Earl of Huntingdon when he decorated the interior of one of the rooms he added to the Manor with representations of his own heraldic insignia. The memorial of himself left to us by the great Earl of Strafford ought to be especially valued by the custodians of The King's Manor as the only one they possess of the presidency of that ill-fated nobleman, who is universally acknowledged to have been one of the master spirits of the age in which he lived.

The next three years were passed by Lord Wentworth in Ireland, and it was not until the summer of 1636 that he was able to return to England and spend a few months in Yorkshire: part of this time he was resident at the Manor, and perhaps it was during the interval that he fulfilled his intention of complet-

(10) *Strafford's Letters.* Vol. 1, p. 85. The letter is dated Westminster, 20th May, 1633.



Wentworth (Lord Stratford) Arms
- Kings Manor, York



ing the conveniences of the house by adding to it a gallery and a chapel.¹¹

In November, 1636, Lord Wentworth was again at his post in Ireland, and on this occasion he was nearly three years absent from England. During these long absences of the Lord President, it is very probable that the buildings of the Manor did not receive that supervision which would prevent some parts from falling into decay, and to this neglect may possibly be attributed the melancholy accident that befel the eldest son of Sir Edward Osborne who was residing there as Vice-President.

The story is thus told by Sir Henry Slingsby:—¹² “ It was upon the last of October that sad accident happned which deprived Sir Edward Osborn, the Vice-President, of his eldest son, in the year 1638: this accident happned by great winds which continuid most part of this month, but chiefly upon that day on which Osborn the son was slain, for being at his study that morning with a French man, that tought him french, his father going to Kerton [Kiveton] and his mother only that morning gone to Lonsbrough to my Lord Cliffords, about 10 of the clock, the wind blew down with great violence 7 chimneys shafts upon the roof of that chamber in the Mannor House where he was at study, and by the fall of them all the rotten peice of building was beat down, wherein he was found dead and buried in a heap of rubbish: the frenchman sav'd himself being at the windowside and the ends off the timber falling from him and lying hollow, bore of the weight of the bricks and tiles so that he receiv'd small hurts.”

In the spring of 1639, King Charles I., whilst on his way to the north, passed a month at York, and took up his abode at the Manor, which continued to be under the charge of Sir Edward Osborne, the Lord President being still in Ireland. In September following Lord Wentworth returned to England, and remained about six months.¹³ Part of that time he spent in Yorkshire, and about Christmas he was at York, sojourning for awhile at his official residence, The King's Manor.

The year 1640 began in brightness, but ended in gloom. At its commencement fresh honours were heaped upon the Lord

(11) From the following passage in a letter of Lord Wentworth to Lord Conway, dated 18th August, 1639, we may conclude that the chapel had then been completed and used for divine worship:—“ In the mean time there is a Gloria Patri sung at St. Mary's Abbey, so as the pillars in that kitchen now may hope to have the honour to become the pillars again of a church, as formerly they were.”—*Letters*, vol. II., p. 881.

(12) *The Diary of Sir Henry Slingsby of Scriven, Bart.* London, 8vo, 1836, p. 1.

(13) He attended a meeting of the Privy Council at Whitehall, on the 19th November, 1639.

President of the North. On the 12th of January he was created Earl of Strafford, and privileged to assume the title of Lord Lieutenant, instead of Lord deputy of Ireland. In March he returned to the duties of that office, but only to perform them for a very short time. On the 3rd of April¹⁴ he again left Ireland, whilst suffering from a complication of acute and painful disorders, and, after disembarking at Chester, he travelled by slow stages to London, where he arrived towards the end of the month. In August the turbulence of the Scots again brought the court to York, and the Manor was at the same time the abode of the king and of him whom the king had delighted to honour. But this was the last time that either of them lodged within its walls. On this occasion the king's visit was prolonged from the 23rd of August to the latter end of October.¹⁵ During part of that interval the Lord President was absent in the north, having been appointed Lieutenant General of the English forces; but before he had arrived at Newcastle to take the command, he learnt that Lord Conway had been defeated in a conflict with the Scots at Newbourn.¹⁶ He hastily returned to the king at York, and thence both proceeded to London to be present at the assembling of Parliament on the 3rd of November.

The first letter written by the Earl of Strafford after his arrival in the metropolis, of which we have any record, bears the ominous date, "Tower of London, 26 November, 1640." Within six months afterwards, the last and most illustrious of the Lords Presidents of the Council of the North, hunted down by his political enemies, and deserted by his faithless master, laid his head upon the block.

Not many days previous to the execution of Lord Strafford, the Court of the Great Council of the North was abolished. The two Houses of Parliament joined in a resolution beseeching his Majesty that "the present commission might be revoked, and no more such be granted for the future."¹⁷ The king, perhaps wishing to set at naught the determination of his parliament, upon Strafford's death issued a new commission by which Thomas Lord Saville was appointed Lord President. There can be no

(14) *Letters*, vol. ii., p. 431.

(15) The assembly officers sat at the Deanery from the 24th of September to the 18th of October, and then the king and the lords departed to meet the Parliament.—*Eborac.* p. 140.

(16) On the 27th August he was suffering from so violent an attack of the stone, that the king would not allow him to set off until the Saturday following.—*Letters*, vol. ii., p. 418.

(17) Passed 26th April, 1641.—*Parl. Hist.*, vol. ix., p. 274.



— Doorway (unusual), Manor House, York —

d I t

doubt that the new grant was wholly inoperative, and that neither Lord Saville nor any of the persons named as councillors presumed to act under it.

In November, 1641, the king, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, spent two nights at York, when on their way to the north. They were entertained by Sir Arthur Ingram, at his house in the Minster Yard, the Manor being then most probably dismantled, and unfit for their reception.

During the king's long and last visit to York in the spring and summer of 1642, his own palace of The Manor was not chosen for his residence. He was again indebted for shelter to the hospitality of the worthy old knight, Sir Arthur Ingram, of which in the following year Queen Henrietta Maria was glad to avail herself when she came to York.

Soon after the abolition of the Council of the North the edifice which had been for so many years the seat of their arbitrary power, was committed to the charge of a single officer, who was styled "the Keeper of the House within the site of the late Monastery of the Blessed Mary near the Walls of the city of York, otherwise called the Pallas, or Manor House, or the Mannor Place." The name of the first keeper was Christopher Stevenson, and he was succeeded by John Stainforth, gentleman, who was appointed on the 6th October, 1643, with a salary of £6 13s. 4d. per annum.

At the siege of York, in 1644, the royalist soldiers, having converted the King's Manor into a sort of garrison, were enabled effectually to repulse their assailants, when, by blowing up St. Mary's tower, they had made a breach in the walls, and entered the orchard and bowling-green. The besiegers were soon made to repent of their temerity. They were surrounded by the royalists, and, after a sharp skirmish, two hundred of them laid down their arms and were taken prisoners, sixty of them being wounded. The precincts of the Manor, it is said, were strewed with the dead bodies of the slain.¹⁸

After the battle of Marston Moor, when the parliamentary army became masters of the city, Mr. Stainforth was displaced from his office of keeper, and subsequently the Manor House came into the possession of Colonel Robert Lilburne, one of the king's judges, who, during the Protectorate, was intrusted with very great authority at York, under Major General Lambert,

(18) *Markham's Life of the Great Lord Fairfax*, p. 148.

and when that officer was superseded, he succeeded to the command of the army in Yorkshire.¹⁹

At the Restoration Colonel Lilburne had to exchange his comfortable residence in the Manor House of York, for a narrow cell in the prison of Newgate. The keepership of the King's Manor was then eagerly sought for by royalists who were scrambling for the rewards they thought themselves entitled to for past services. In July, 1660, the office was granted by the Crown to a person called Humphrey Hareward or Howard, who had scarcely entered into possession when a second grant was made to Captain Richard Harland, on account of his having faithfully served the king and his late father, and been a great sufferer for his loyalty. This double grant led to disputes and controversies between the two claimants. Hareward was represented to the Privy Council to be a person of evil principles, having been heard to say that regicide was no crime and sacrilege no sin,²⁰ and a few years afterwards an order was made for him to be removed, and Harland to be put in possession.²¹ Even this arrangement was not satisfactory, and, on the 8th May, 1665, the king, desirous of putting an end to all disputes, ordered that Henry Parry, of whose loyalty he had had long experience, should be put into the place, and that Harland should depute Parry to receive all the profits and allowances of the office.²²

It was probably some years later that King Charles II. appointed a Governor over the city, and the Manor House then became the residence of John Lord Frescheville, a newly created peer, who was the first Governor.²³ Upon his death, in 1682, Sir John Reresby, a Yorkshire baronet, who then represented the city in parliament, was appointed his successor. Upon the accession of James II., the King's Manor had a narrow escape from being converted into a Roman Catholic college. Sir John Reresby has noted in his diary²⁴ that in the summer of 1687, "he had frequent alarms that the papists were in a way of persuading the king to grant them the Manor as a seminary for the instruction of youth in the principles of their faith." On

(19) Noble's *Lives of the English Regicides*, vol. I., p. 379.

(20) Croft's *Excerpta Antiqua*, p. 35.

(21) In September, 1665, Sir Thomas Carnaby was killed in an affray with Richard Harland, in his house in Blake-street.

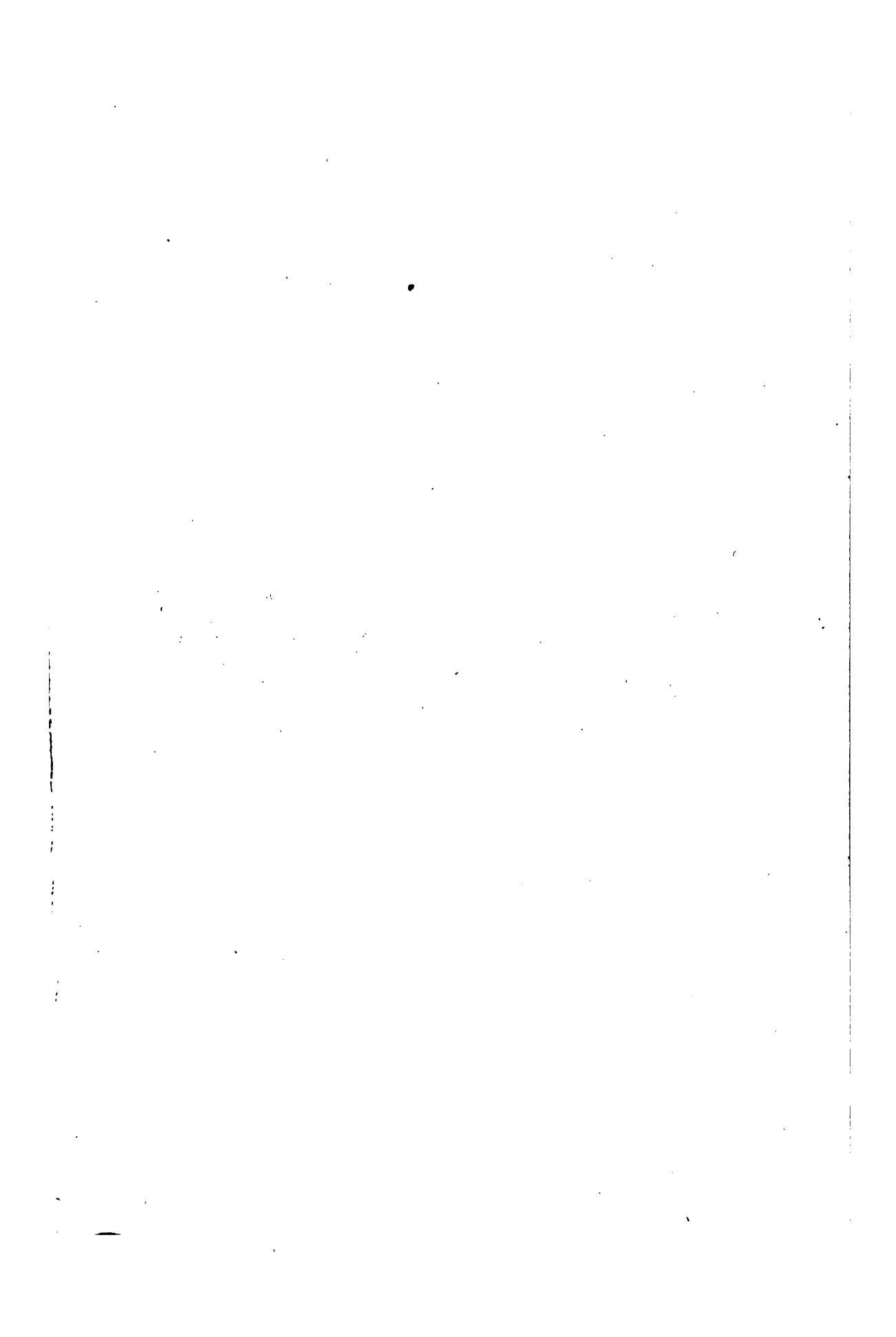
(22) Cal. State Papers, 1660-61, and 1664-65.

(23) *Eborac.* p. 574.

(24) *Memoirs of Sir John Reresby*. London, 1818, p. 334.



Principal Entrance
Manor House, York



the 24th of June Sir John received positive information that the Manor was actually granted to one Father Lawson, a priest, for a term of thirty years. He immediately wrote a letter of remonstrance to the Treasury, representing that he held the house by his commission of governor, granted to himself by the late, and confirmed by the present king—that it was worth £60 a year to him, and that it had cost him above £200 in repairs since he had enjoyed it. He therefore desired either that it might be continued to him, or that he might have compensation.

Upon a personal application being made to the king on Sir John's behalf, his majesty said that the Manor was promised to Father Lawson for the uses already specified²⁵—that the king did not know that Sir John lived in it, and that if he had any charge for repairs his claim should be considered. Shortly afterwards Sir John was informed that the Treasury had so represented the business to the king that no positive resolution was as yet taken.

Notwithstanding, on the 5th of November Sir John received a formal notice from Father Lawson that, the king having made him a grant of the Manor for the honour of God and the good of his people, he expected Sir John would give him free and easy possession. At first Sir John refused to divest himself by his own act and deed of that which he held by royal commission, but he ultimately yielded upon being assured that the grant was actually made to Father Lawson. On the 7th of December Father Lawson appeared in person and claimed possession of the house, which, after a short delay, was delivered up to him by Sir John Reresby.

The priest, who is called Father Lawson, was a member of the Yorkshire Roman Catholic family of that name, the head of which at that time was Sir John Lawson of Brough, who, for his sufferings and loyalty in the civil war, was made a baronet by King Charles II. The grant of the Manor by King James II. was not made to Father Lawson himself, but to Henry Lawson, Esquire, who was the eldest surviving son of Sir John, and succeeded his father in the baronetcy. It is dated the 20th November, 1687, and is in the nature of a lease for thirty-one years at the annual rent of ten shillings. Father Lawson had but a short enjoyment of his lease, yet it must have been whilst the Manor was in his possession that the circumstance happened which is thus stated by Mr. Drake:²⁶—"In the unfortunate reign

(25) *Memoirs*, p. 395.

(26) *Eborac.*, p. 574.

of King James the Second a large room²⁷ in the Manor was fitted up and made use of as a popish chapel, where one Bishop Smith, as he was called, celebrated mass openly. But it was not long before the enraged populace pulled it to pieces.²⁸ Another York annalist tells us that in November, 1688, a few days after the landing of the Prince of Orange, "The mob of the city pulled down all the new erected popish chapels and fell on plundering several private houses of papists."

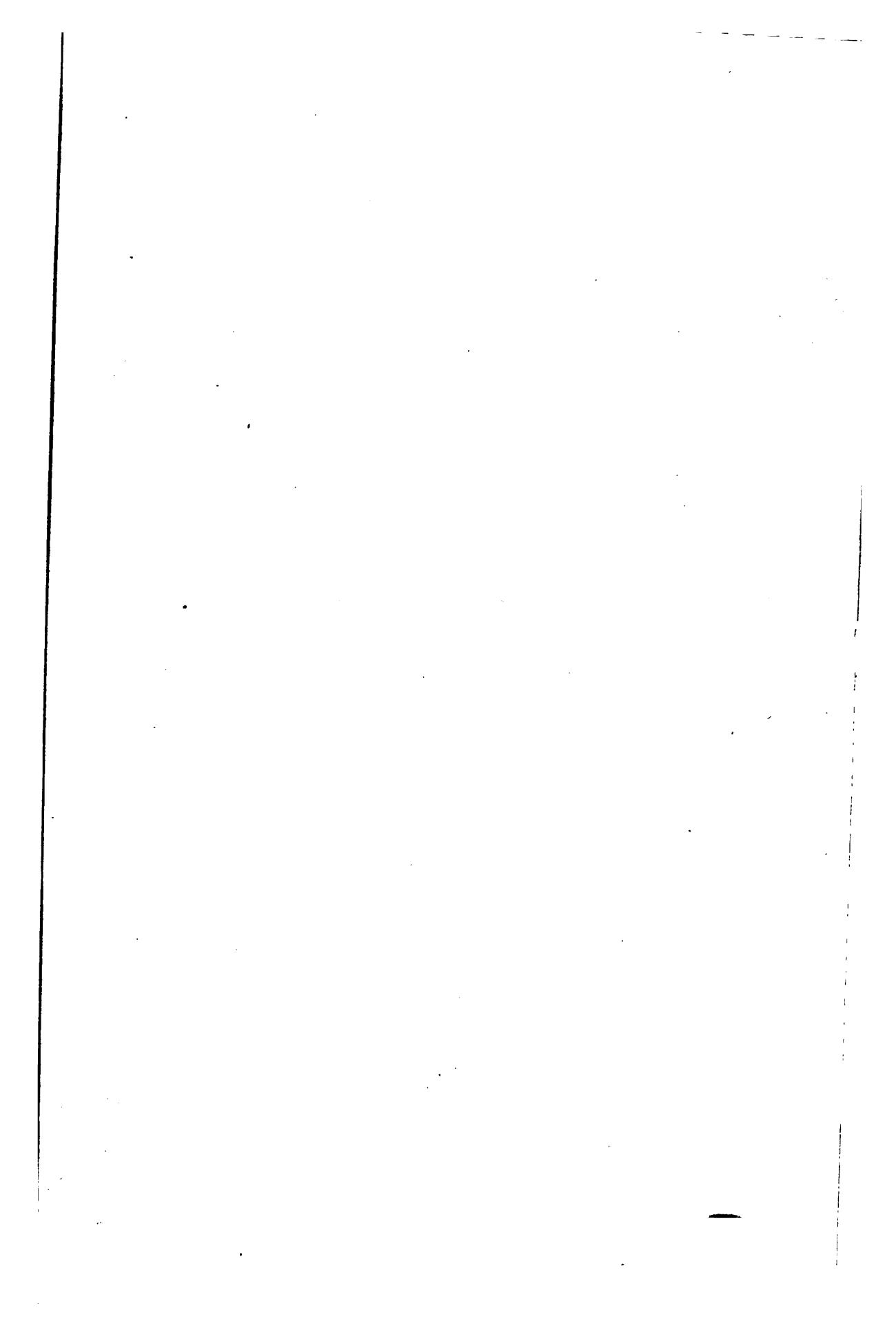
Any hope the Roman Catholics might have indulged of forming a religious or educational establishment at York was extinguished at the Revolution. Upon that event the grant made by King James became nugatory, and possession of the King's Manor, with the adjacent remains of St. Mary's Abbey, was resumed by the Protestant government to be dealt with, like any other crown property, for the ordinary purposes of revenue. In the year 1692 a lease of the whole domain was granted by the treasury to Robert Waller, of York, Esquire, attorney-at-law, for the term of thirty-one years, at the annual reserved rent of ten shillings.

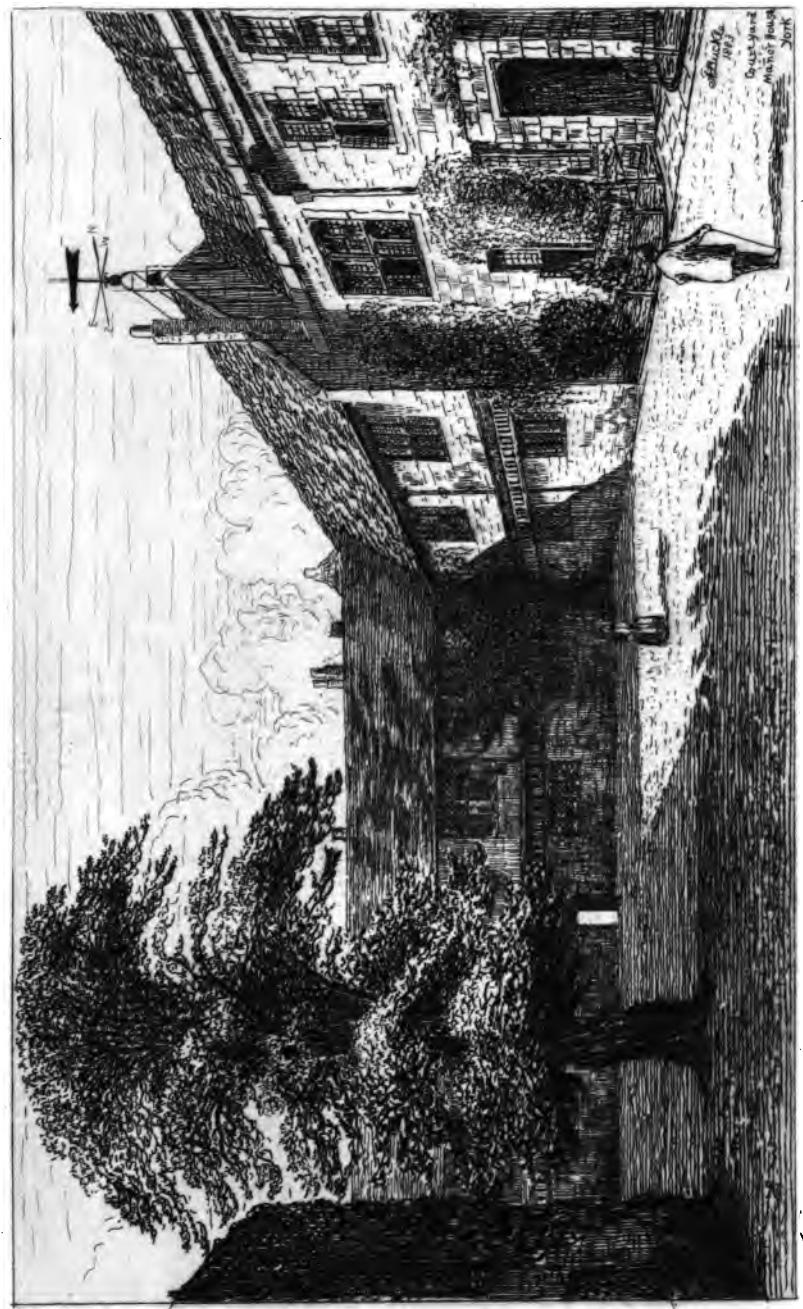
The lessee was an alderman of York, and Lord Mayor of the city in the last year of King Charles II. King James II., immediately after his succession, granted to the city of York a renewal of their municipal charter, and at the same time displaced Waller and four others, from the office of alderman, in order to appoint five Jacobites in their stead. In November, 1688, upon the landing of the Prince of Orange, the tables were turned, and Waller was not only restored to the office of alderman, but again placed in the chair of chief magistrate for the remainder of the year of mayoralty, which terminated a few days before the proclamation of William and Mary. In 1690 Alderman Waller was elected one of the representatives of the city in parliament, and doubtless he succeeded in obtaining from the crown this beneficial lease of the Manor property as a reward for his support of the new government.²⁹

(27) "This year (1688) the Council Chamber in the Mannour was converted into a Roman Chappel, and consecrated by one—Smith, a Roman Bishop."—Torre's *Antiquities of York City*, p. 130. York, 8vo.

(28) *Ibid.* p. 132. Bishop Smith's pastoral staff is now exhibited among the curious relics preserved in the treasury of the Dean and Chapter. It is said to have been wrested from the bishop as he was walking to the Minster in solemn procession from the chapel at the Manor. The party who committed this outrage was headed by the Earl of Danby.

(29) It was most probably one of those transactions, occasionally heard of in these days, which the profane are apt to denominate jobs.





The lease comprised the whole of the site of the late monastery of Saint Mary's, with all the buildings upon it, including the palace or mansion-house of The King's Manor, with its appendages, described to have been in the tenure of John Reresby, Governor of the city of York, or keeper [custos] of the same mansion-house. An exception was made of such rooms, chambers, and places as were used by the steward of the manor of Saint Mary's, for holding the courts of the same manor.

Alderman Waller soon began to make profit of his bargain. A considerable part of the manor buildings was converted into separate dwelling-houses, and let to respectable tenants. Other parts were let for work-shops or warehouses, or other meaner purposes. In the year 1696 a mint for coining silver money was set up in some of the rooms, and carried on its operations for two or three years. Before the close of the seventeenth century one of the houses was the residence of Francis Place, Esquire, the ingenious artist, the friend of Lister, Thoresby, Walpole, and other literary men of that period. Early in the last century another house was occupied as a ladies' boarding school, an establishment which was in existence, and in good repute, until within the last thirty years.³⁰ Mr. Drake tells us³¹ that the large hall, once consecrated as a place of Roman Catholic worship, was afterwards converted into an assembly-room for the nobility, gentry, and ladies at the races, and used as a common entertaining room for the high sheriffs at the assizes.

Alderman Waller's lease expired in 1723, and a new lease was granted by the crown to another York alderman, Sir Tancred Robinson,³² of Newby, Baronet, Lord Mayor in 1718 and 1738. His younger brother, Thomas Robinson, created Lord Grantham in 1761, was the grandfather of the late Thomas Philip Weddall Robinson, Earl de Grey, upon whom the beneficial interest of the second lease ultimately devolved.

I need not dwell upon the modern history of The King's Manor. We may rejoice that this interesting edifice, dignified as it is by so many stirring associations, has suffered but little injury in its external aspect from the many changes it has experienced, and that it still exists to adorn our venerable city. We may yet more rejoice that the whole of the site of the once celebrated Abbey of Saint Mary's, and all the buildings which now stand upon it, are devoted to public objects of the highest utility and beneficence.

(30) Thoresby placed his daughter there in 1712. *Diary*, Vol. II., p. 61. (31) *Eborac.* p. 575.

(32) The lease was obtained by his father, Sir William Robinson, who succeeded Waller in the office of Alderman, and was Lord Mayor in 1700, and represented the city in every Parliament from 1698 to 1735. He died in 1736.

APPENDIX.

THE SURVEY OF THE MANOR HOUSE AT YORK.

A certificate of the nedfull repaire of the mannour of St. Maryes nigh unto the walls of the city of Yorke, to be aswell as yt was in the right honourable the Earle of Huntingdon, the other L. Presidents usage thereof made, by Sir Richard Willinson, Sir George Chaworth, knights, and Thomas Scudamour, esquire, by the judgment of skillfull workmen, the xvijth day of December, anno Domini 1609, by force of the right ho: the L. Treasurer and Chancelour of the Exchequer there lettres in that behalf.

Imprimis, *the Greate Chamber, the dyning and Drawing Chamber* :—Leade, thre fulders—Soder,—Timber, thre Tun,—Plaister, one chalder,—Lyme, one chalder,—Paveing tile, iij hundredth,—Casementes, tenn. *Workmanshapp*. Plummer for casting and laying the old and new leade, xii?—Bricklayer, xl s. Carpenter, xl s.

Seaven Chambers over the great chamber, dyning and drawing chambers. Casements, vij. Plaister, ij chalders. Lyme, one chalder. Doores, ij.—*Workmanshapp*.—Plasterer, xx. s.

Item, the passages to the chambers and half paces.—Plaister, j chalder. Kyme, j chalder. Lattes, j thousand. Nayles, iij thousand. *Workmanshapp*. Plasterer, xx s.

Item, the north Galloryes wth iiiij chambers at the east end, and vaults and parlours under them. Tymber, 8 tun. Tyles, 16,000. Plaister, 4 chalder. Lyme, 4 chalder. Lattes, 10,000. Nayles, 30,000. Casementes, 20. Doores, 2. *Workmanshapp*. Carpenter, 6^{li} 6^s 8^d. Plaisterer and Bricklayer, 6^{li} 6^s 8^d.

Item, Galloreyes next the Cloister, wth iiiij chambers at the east end thereof, and fyve parlours under.—Timber, 20 tuns. Tyles, 10,000. Lattes, 8,000. Nayles, 25,000. Plaister, 2 chalder. Lyme, 10 chalders. Lead, 2 fulders. Sowder, 16 pounds. Casementes, 11. Doores, 4. *Workmanshapp*. Carpenter, 20^{li}. Bricklayer, 20^{li}. Plumber, 20^{li}.

Items, the passages and staires betwixt the two galloryes.—Tyles, 2,000. Lattes, 1,000. Nailes, 3,000. Lyme, 4 chalders. Plaister, 2 chalders. Casementes, 24. Doores, 2. *Workmanshapp*. Carpenter, Bricklayer, Plaisterer,—4^{li}.

The old Hall, kitching and paistry (sic), etc. 6 roome.—Lead, 5 fulders. Tymber, 6 tuns. Tyles, 14,000. Bricketes, 5,000. Lattes, 6,000. Nayles, 18,000. Plaister, 8 chalders. Paving-tyle, 22,000. Sowder, 50^{li}. Lyme, 3 chalders. Doores, 4. *Workmanshapp*. Plumber, 14^{li}. Carpenter, 6^{li}. Bricklayer, 8^{li}.

Seaven chambers under the east end of the Hall. Plaister, 2 chalders. Lyme, 2 chalders. Lattes, 2,000. Nayles, 6,000. Doores, 3. Casementes, 4. *Workmanshapp*.—In all, 3^{li} 0^s 0^d.

Item, the larders, wth iiij chambers over them. Tymber, 20 tuns. Tiles, 8,000. Plaister, 14 chalders. Lyme, 3 chalders. Lattes, 11,000. Nayles, 30,000. Doors, 1.—*Workmanshapp*.—Carpenter, 16^{li} 0^s 0^d. Bricklayer, 10^{li} 0^s 0^d.

In the granary, baikhouse, brewhouse, and stables. Timber, 20 tuns. Tyles, 12,000. Lyme, 4 chalders. Lattes, 3,000 Nayles, 10,000. *Workmanshapp*.—Carpenter, 13^{li} 0^s 0^d.—Bricklayer, 12^{li} 0^s 0^d.

Item, the new Kitchinge. Tyles, 15,000 Lattes, 5,000. Nayles, 15,000. Lyme, 3 chalders. Lead for spouttes and gutters, j fodder.—*Workmanshapp*. Tyler, 8^{li} 0^s 0^d.

Item, the building of a new Hall.—Timber for y^e tables, formes, skerne (?) doores, etc., 50 tuns. Tyle, 12,000. Lattes, 20,000. Nayles, 80,000. Lyme for walls, 40 chalders. Gett (?) stone for y^e walls, 10^{ll}. Doores, 2. *Workmanshapp.* Carpenters, 3^{ll} 0^s 0^d. For roughe worke, windowes and chimney, 50^{ll} 0^s 0^d.—The plaisterer and tyler, 12^{ll} 0^s 0^d.

The parlours, and the chambers at the north end of the Tennys Courte. Timber, 6 tuns. Tyles, 3,000. Plaister, 2 chalders. Lyme, 2 chalders. Lattes, 2,000. Nayles, 6,000. Bricke, 1,000. Casementes, 4. Doores, 4. *Workmanshapp.* Carpenters, 53^s 4^d. Tylers, 53^s 4^d.

The parlour and chamber next the garden. Timber, 2 tuns. Doores, 3. Tyles, 7,000. Bricke, 2,000. Plaister, 8 chalders. Lattes, 10,000. Nayles, 30,000. Lyme, 7 chalders. Paving-tyles, 5,000. Casementes, 6. Doores, 4. Iron for bandes for doores, howkes and bandes for windowes, half a tun. *Workmanshapp.* Carpenter, 10^{ll} 0^s 0^d. In rough worke, windowes and chimneys, 13^{ll} 6^s 8^d. Plaisterer and Tyler, 4^{ll} 0^s 0^d.

The generall decay of glasse througheout the old and new house is 1060 foote.

The gatehouse roofes and viij parlours and chambers. Tymber, 4 tuns. Lead, 6 foulders. Soulder, 8 stones. Lyme, j chalder. Doores, 1. Casementes, 26.—*Workmanship.* Carpenter, Bricklaer, Plummer, 25^{ll} 0^s 0^d.

The som and prices of these particulers:—

		li.	s.	d.
Lead, 17 foulders,	price ..	15 ^{ll} (sic)	per fowlder, is..	12 . 15 . 00
Sowlder, 18 stones	" ..	11 ^s 8 ^d	per stone, is	10 . 00 . 00
Tymber, 139 tunns	" ..	20 ^s	per tunn, is	139 . 00 . 00
Plaster, 46 chalders	" ..	6 ^s 8 ^d	per chalder, is	015 . 06 . 08
Lyme, 4 skore 14 chalder	" ..	9 ^s	per chalder, is	042 . 06 . 00
Lattes, 43 thousand	" ..	10 ^s	per thousand, is	021 . 10 . 00
Pavinge tyle, 30 hundredth	" ..	33 ^s 4 ^d	per thousand, is ..	005 . 00 . 00
Casementes, j hundredth v	" ..	3 ^s	per casement, is	015 . 15 . 00
Doores, 32				
Tyles, 99,000 thousand (sic),	" ..	33 ^s 4 ^d	per thousand, is ..	145 . 10 . 00
Iron, j tun	" ..	15 ^{ll}	per tun	015 . 00 . 00
Glasse, 1060	" ..	6 ^d	per foot, is	031 . 10 . 00

For Workmanship:—

The Plummer	51 . 0 . 0	051 . 00 . 00
The Bricklaer	96 . 0 . 0	[096 . 00 . 00]
The Carpenter	89 . 0 . 0	089 . 00 . 00
The Plasterer	69 . 6 . 8	069 . 06 . 08

Thomas Brinsley, mason

Geordg Wilson, carpinter

Thomas Gell, bricklayer

John Tayler, tyler, his mark

758 . 19 . 04

The workmen that surveyed bothe the mannor house at Yorke and Sherife Hutton Castle, in approbation of this Survey, have herto sett there hands.

I have perused thes particulars and doe fynd both the materialls and workmanship, wth the rest of the waiges, very reasonable, 28 June, 1611.

Hy. Busy.

[In dorso "The Pallace at York,

27 Junii, 1611,

An estimate of the charges to repaire it."

THE YORKSHIRE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND,
LOCATED IN THE KING'S MANOR HOUSE,
WAS FOUNDED IN 1833,
IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, M.P.

The following have been the successive

Presidents :

EARL FITZWILLIAM	....	....	....	1833
EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G.	....	....	....	1859
LORD FEVERSHAM	....	....	....	1864
EARL FITZWILLIAM, K.G.	....	....	....	1866

Hon. Treasurers :

ROBERT DAVIES, F.S.A.	....	....	1833
JOHN PREST	....	....	1840
DAVID RUSSELL	....	....	1852
ARTHUR H. RUSSELL	....	....	1881

Hon. Secretaries :

JOSEPH MUNBY	....	....	....	1833
FREDK. J. MUNBY	....	....	....	1876

Superintendents :

REV. WM. TAYLOR, F.R.S.	....	....	1836
BEVERLEY R. MORRIS, M.D.	....	....	1845
DAWSON LITLEDALE	....	....	1854
FREDK. E. BRUNTON	....	....	1861
ANTHONY BUCKLE, B.A.	....	....	1869

The following inscription, taken from the pedestal on which stands the marble bust of William Wilberforce, by the Sculptor, Joseph, faces the visitor on entering the Manor House:

IN MEMORY OF
WILBERFORCE,
THE CHRISTIAN PHILANTHROPIST,
A NATIVE OF YORKSHIRE,
AND ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN PARLIAMENT
FOR XXX YEARS,
WHO, DEVOTING HIS ELOQUENCE
TO THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY,
LED PUBLIC OPINION
TO ABOLISH THE SLAVE TRADE,
THE COUNTY OF YORK FOUNDED
THIS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
A.D. MDCCCXXXIII.

The institution comprises the following departments:—

1.—THE SCHOOL, for the education and training of eighty pupils, male and female, between the ages of ten and twenty, in some handicraft, and in music where musical ability is found. The general education consists of instruction in Holy Scripture, Reading in Roman, Moon, and Braille type; Writing by the Guldberg (lead pencil) and pin type processes; Arithmetic, English History, Grammar, Geography (by the aid of special maps), and the subjects usually included in a sound Elementary Education.

The handicrafts which are taught in the school are Basket-making, Brush-making, Re-seating Chairs in Cane, and the manufacture of Straw Door-mats.

A fine organ, and several pianofortes, with competent teachers, supply all that is necessary for a thoroughly good musical education for pupils with a taste for music and ability to ensure success. About 350 Pupils have passed through the School since its foundation, many of whom have attained positions of independent usefulness in trades and music, and conducted themselves in a manner creditable alike to the school and to themselves.

2.—**THE OUTMATES' DEPARTMENT.** This department was founded in 1861, for the purpose of affording employment to former pupils after they leave the school. Fourteen such blind men are regularly employed in either Basket or Brush-making. The Committee supply the work, pay the wages, and dispose of the productions of the Outmates' work.

3.—**MRS. MARKHAM'S FUND FOR ASSISTING THE BLIND.** The late Mrs. Spencer Markham, who for many years had taken a deep interest in the pupils of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, by means of Donations and Subscriptions from friends of the Blind in the County, raised a fund in the year 1866, for the purpose of aiding former pupils of the School to establish themselves in positions of independent industry.

This fund Mrs. Markham invested in the names of three Trustees, and during her lifetime, from the interest thereof and from annual subscriptions, she assisted in various ways many of the former pupils of the School. The present trustees of the Fund are the Very Rev. the Dean of York, the Rev. Canon Philips, and the Rev. Canon Raine.

The Declaration of the Trust states, "that the income shall be applied in behalf of the pupils who have been educated in the Wilberforce School for the Blind, and have gone home to follow the trade they have been taught, and earn a livelihood for themselves in manner following :

- 1st—By providing apparatus, materials, or tools for those who cannot afford to buy them ; or,
- 2nd.—By making small grants of money, afterwards, to such of the pupils as are well reported of by the clergyman in whose parish he or she may reside, as a recognition of industrious habits and good conduct ; or,
- 3rd.—By affording assistance in any case of sickness or accident."

The Trust Fund consists of £800 invested in the N.E.R. Company's Fund.

Application for grants may be made to the Very Rev. The Dean of York, and forms for this purpose may be obtained from the Superintendent of the School.

4.—**THE OUTMATES' BENEFIT CLUB,** a Sick Club founded by the Outmates themselves, and managed by them and the Officers of the School. The funds, which are quite distinct from those

of the School, are under the charge of the Hon. Treasurer of the School. As the number of Outmates is only 14, and their weekly contributions small, the Club cannot be expected to be self-supporting. Hence, donations to it will be a real help given to those who give good evidence of a desire to help themselves.

GOODS SOLD AT THE SCHOOL.

The Committee respectfully urge subscribers and friends of the School to make purchases of articles sold at the School.

BRUSHES of all kinds are offered for sale.

BASKETS in great variety are also exposed for sale in the Sale Room, and illustrated catalogues may be obtained post free on application to the Superintendent. The Wicker-work Tables, Chairs, &c., have always found a ready sale at Bazaars; a liberal allowance, according to the amount of the order, is made, and carriage is paid to any station on all orders for such objects.

The Committee desire also to call the attention of their friends in Yorkshire and elsewhere to the GAME HAMPERS, made by the Outmates, and sold at as cheap a rate as possible.

CHAIRS are re-seated in Willows, Rushes, or Cane, at the usual prices.

PLAIN AND FANCY KNITTING is also done to order in the Girls' School.

CONCERTS.

Concerts are given every Thursday afternoon at 2-30, to which subscribers are admitted free, and the general public at a charge of sixpence each. Special Concerts may also be arranged for parties visiting the School, by writing previously to the Superintendent.

CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION.

The Superintendent will supply application forms for admission, and will be glad to be informed of the names and addresses of young blind children, in order that he may be able to advise with their parents and friends previous to admission into the School.

VISITORS.

The public are admitted to all the departments of the School from 2-30 to 5-30, except Saturdays; and to the workshops only from 9 to 12-30.

1883.

THE WILBERFORCE MEMORIAL JUBILEE FUND.

This Fund has for its object,

1. The extinction of the rent, £115 per annum, payable to Government.
2. The founding of a Department in connection with the School for the purpose of teaching handicrafts to those who have lost their sight after the age of 16.

The Committee frequently receive applications for help on behalf of such cases, and, as the Rules fix the age of admission between 10 and 16, the Committee have neither the power to help them nor the funds which might enable them to do so. The Managers, therefore, hope that the year 1883 may be marked by such an addition to the funds at their disposal as will enable them to accomplish the objects for which the fund is opened.

Subscriptions or Donations, either to the General or to the Jubilee Fund, may be forwarded to the Treasurer, Mr. A. H. RUSSELL; or to the YORK UNION BANK.

F. J. MUNBY,

Hon. Secy.

24th May, 1883.

FUND

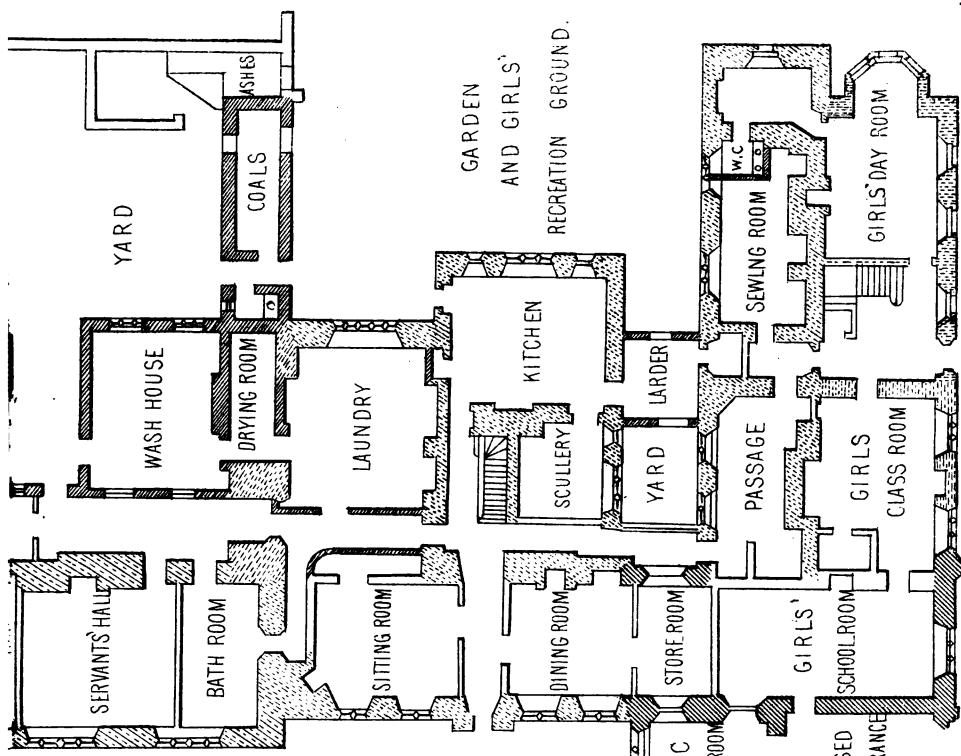
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Reference to Hatchings

Abbey Servants' Palace

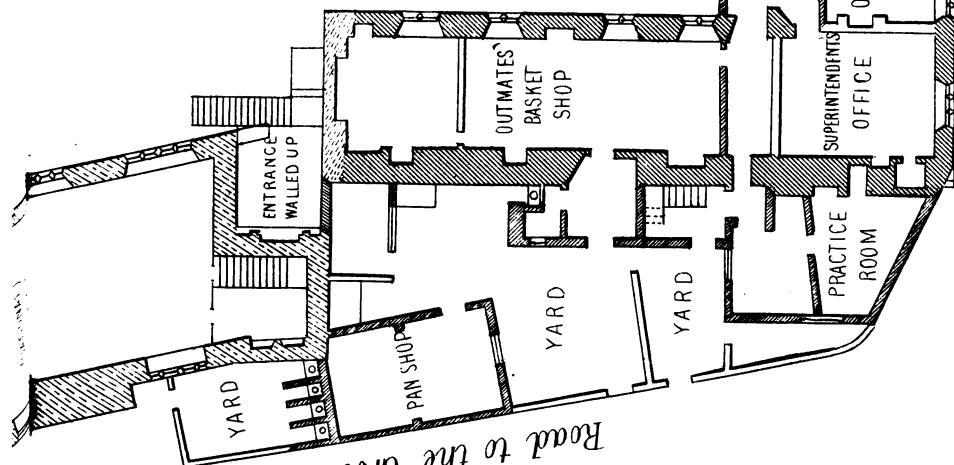
King Henry VIII's do.

Earl of Huntingdon's do.

Lord Sherfield's do.

Lord Strafford's do.

Modern Work.



Road to the Grounds of the Workshops

GROUND PLAN OLD KING'S MANOR, YORK.

No Scale. June 1883

